

Library Board Meeting Minutes October 10, 2022

Members present: Draper, Finander, Gold, Romenesko, Rund, Styles Spooner, Thompson and Halgren (staff)

Absent: Hart (excused)

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes
- Bills

Approval of the consent agenda items moved by Rund, seconded by Finander, roll call vote, passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Repair and Maintenance

- The drinking fountain was spewing water outside of the bowl, but it was fixed in September.

Virtual Student Cards Update

- Renee Grassi, Youth Services Manager for DCL, informed staff that Rebecca Spreigl is no longer the media specialist for SSPPS. Marie Hydukovich has assumed this role and will need time to learn about the student virtual cards, so expansion to high school students is currently on hold.

NEW BUSINESS

Circulation Stats

- The library circulated 6,739 items in September, which was a 6.3% increase over September 2021, but an 11.8% decrease from September 2019's pre-pandemic numbers.

Donation to Community of Saints Library

- Halgren was approached by Erin Lamkin, the media specialist at the Community of Saints Library, about any available books to update their collection. Lamkin was especially interested in books that addressed diversity.
- Halgren culled some books from our ongoing sale but also considered leftover books from our pop-up project from 2019. Lamkin is currently sorting through the tubs of books, selecting what will work for her library.
- Library staff are happy to be able to offer these books to a library in need since we will not be able to store them in the new library.

Ryan Sanford Photo Collection

- Ryan Sanford, local photographer, approached Halgren about providing larger photos to the library for circulation, much like the artwork that was circulated in decades past. With the upcoming merger, staff are wondering if this will be feasible once they have transitioned into the new library.

- In discussing the situation with Margaret Stone, DCL Director, she suggested that once the new library is open, Mr. Sanford could then have an exhibit and offer prints for sale, which would not involve library staff. There will not be storage space to keep artwork for circulation purposes in the new building, so this is an alternative option.

Fresh Start

- DCL is starting a new program in November called Fresh Start for formerly incarcerated individuals.
- If staff are given a Fresh Start card, it's a signal to waive all charges on their card, signaling a fresh new experience with the library.
- If fines once again accrue on their library card, these will not be waived.

Motion to join with Dakota County Library in participating in the Fresh Start program to waive fines of formerly incarcerated patrons by Gold, seconded by Romenesko, roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Minimum Wage Increase for 2023

- The minimum wage in Minnesota will be \$10.59 (up from \$10.33) on 1/1/23.
- In the past, we have increased the five-step scale by 25 cents for Steps 2-4 and 50 cents for Step 5.
- Thus, in 2023, the shelver pay scale would be \$10.59, \$10.84, \$11.09, \$11.34, and \$11.84.

Motion made by Rund and seconded by Styles Spooner to increase the five-step scale by 25 cents for Steps 2-4 and 50 cents for Step 5. Roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Groundbreaking Ceremony

- Halgren thanked those board members that came to the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Dakota County library in South St. Paul on October 4.
- There was quite an array of legislators, with Angie Craig and a representative from Amy Klobuchar's office speaking for a few moments, but the spotlight was really on Commissioner Kathleen Gaylord who championed this project across the finish line, no matter what obstacles appeared in her path.
- A variety of groups posed with the "golden shovels," including legislators; City and library staff plus City Councilmembers and Library Board members; and the project team and Donlar Construction staff.
- Pam and Chris Bakken ensured that youth were there by escorting his high school class to the event.

Retirement

- In light of the groundbreaking ceremony last week, guaranteeing that South St. Paul Public Library will have a solid future of service to the community for decades to come, Halgren announced her impending retirement, currently slated for July 21, 2023.
- Typically, the director recommends their successor, based on the candidate's longevity with the library and overall knowledge of basic library procedures and practices.
- Halgren recommended Honora Greenwood Rodriguez who began employment at SSP Library in 2007, becoming the Adult Services Librarian in 2011. She currently is at the top of her scale. If she becomes the next Library Director, it's up to the board to decide what her incoming salary will be. First, the board usually meets with the candidate and asks a few questions of him/her to gauge their interest, capabilities, etc.

Motion made by Draper and seconded by Rund that the board interview Honora Rodriguez at the November 14 meeting. Roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Pandemic Programming Highlights

Adult Programs

- 100 people took a peg doll as part of our “We Are SSP Peg People” program with returned pegs on display above the New materials shelves.
- Creepy Doll Head Planters have been a huge hit. Honora presented the program on Oct. 3 and Oct. 6 with 27 happy attendees. Town Square TV created a video of the Oct. 4 program. Link to come!
- Participants also enjoyed painting birch trees in a resist painting class by Caponi Art Park (9/26).
- *Upcoming:* Book Discussion of *Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk* by Ben Fountain (10/13); Fiction Basics with the Loft Literary Center (10/24); Needle Felt a Mini Landscape (11/7); Book Discussion of *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali (11/10).

Children’s Programs

- Nice participation in storytimes and toddlers takeover sessions.
- *Upcoming:* Soft Sculptures with COMPAS teaching artist Emmett Ramstad (10/14); Teen Fandom Club (10/17); Community Helper Visit to kindergartners at Kaposia Educational Center (10/18 or 10/19); Great Halloween Get Together (10/31); Say It! Sing It! Play It! In Cherokee by Z Puppets artists Chris Griffith and Shari Aronson (11/8); Cooking with Kids with U of MN Extension (11/14).

Book Sale

- Runs from Oct. 10-15; a dollar a bag!

Other/Correspondence

- Email from family that won State Fair tickets
- Card from Lynn Bishop
- Great Halloween Get-Together request for possible volunteer

Motion to adjourn the October Library Board meeting by Styles Spooner, seconded by Finander, roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Next meeting – November 14, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Halgren
Library Director

Programming Statistics

September through partial October 2022

Program name	Program Start Date	Format	Target age	Attendance: in-person programs	Attendance: live virtual programs	Views at 7 days: recorded programs	Participants: self-directed activities
We Are SSP Peg People	09/01/22	Self-directed activity	all ages				100
Toddlers Takeover	09/02/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	6			
Storytime for 2's-6's	09/06/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	4			
Storytime for Babies	09/07/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	9			
Book Club	09/08/22	In-person onsite program	Adult (ages 19+)	9			
Water Makes Music with MacPhail	09/08/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	17			
Maple Tree	09/09/22	In-person offsite program	ages 0-5	32			
Storytime for 2's-6's	09/13/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	11			
Storytime for Babies	09/14/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	10			
Toddlers Takeover	09/16/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	10			

Teen Fandom Club	09/19/22	In-person onsite program	YA (ages 12-18)	1			
Storytime for 2's-6's	09/20/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	11			
Storytime for Babies	09/21/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	6			
Birch Tree Resist Painting	09/26/22	In-person onsite program	Adult (ages 19+)	8			
Storytime for 2's-6's	09/27/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	14			
Storytime for Babies	09/28/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	4			
Creepy Doll Head Planters	10/03/22	In-person onsite program	Adult (ages 19+)	12			
Storytime for 2's-6's	10/04/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	6			
Storytime for Babies	10/05/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	5			
Creepy Doll Head Planters	10/06/22	In-person onsite program	adult(ages 19+)	15			
Toddlers Takeover	10/07/22	In-person onsite program	ages 0-5	10			
ECFE Baby Shower	10/07/22	In-person offsite program	all ages	32			